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14. A method according to claim 11, wherein the bacterial strain is selected from a group consisting of *Lactococcus* spp., *Lactobacillus* spp., and *Streptococcus thermophilus*.

15. A method according to claim 11, wherein the bacterial strain does not express a functional PrtP protease.

16. A method according to claim 11, further comprising:
introducing into the bacterial strain a nucleic acid having a sequence encoding a protein of interest operably linked to a promoter, wherein the nucleic acid is not integrated into a gene encoding the HtrA protease; and
culturing the bacterial strain under conditions causing expression of the protein from the nucleic acid.

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17. A Gram positive bacterial strain that does not express a functional HtrA protease, wherein the strain has a genome that is equal to or less than 3.2 Mb in size, with the proviso that the bacterial strain is not a *Lactobacillus helveticus* strain having a *gusA* reporter gene inserted into a gene encoding the HtrA protease, and wherein the bacterial strain comprises an expression cassette having a sequence encoding a protein of interest operably linked to a promoter.

18. A bacterial strain according to claim 17, wherein the strain does not express a functional PrtP protease.

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19. A method of producing a fermented product, comprising:
culturing a bacterial strain according to claim 17 with a fermentation substrate under conditions suitable to produce a fermented product.

20. A method of producing a dietetic food, comprising:
culturing a bacterial strain according to claim 17 with a substrate under conditions suitable to produce a dietetic food.

21. A method of producing a medicinal product, comprising: